EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

This Examiner's Amendment is in response to Applicant's amendment filed

January 15, 2009 and an interview held with Mr. Michael Glenn (Reg. No. 30,176) on

March 6, 2008. Applicants amendment amended claims 1, 4-11, 13-15, 18-30, 48-49,

51, 57, 58, 60, 62, 92-93, 96-98 and canceled claims 2, 3, 12, 16, 17, 31-47, 50, 52-56,

59, 61, 63-91, 94 and 95.

Claims 1, 30 and 92 are amended and claim 11 is canceled herein. Claims 1, 4-

10, 13-15, 18-30, 48-49, 51, 57, 58, 60, 62, 92-93 and 96-98 are currently pending and

allowed, as amended, below.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Michael Glenn (Reg. No. 30,176) on March 6, 2009.

Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for surveying a plurality of users with a sequence of questions that is automatically tailored per user to create a corresponding individualized compensation report, comprising the steps of:

creating, with a computer implemented survey engine, for each of said users a corresponding user profile containing a tailored sequence of questions and corresponding answers, said tailored sequence of questions directed towards determination of job information, career information, and potential profile matches responsive of a user profile and one or more affinity groups of said user;

creating, with said computer implemented survey engine, at least periodically, said one or more affinity groups for said users responsive of each of said corresponding user profiles, each of said one or more affinity groups having at least one user profile in an affinity group, said one or more affinity groups being created independent of the order in which said tailored sequence of questions is presented to a user;

associating, with said computer implemented survey engine, each user profile with at least one affinity group;

presenting to each user, with a collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, a sequence of questions from a source containing a plurality of different questions, said sequence of questions and order of each question in said sequence of questions being independently, asynchronously, and dynamically tailored for each and every user on an individual basis responsive to both an answer received from each individual user to a question previously presented to said individual user and a particular affinity group or combination of affinity groups to which a profile of

said individual user is associated; ~~and~~

receiving answers from each user;

filtering said user profile, with a collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, wherein said filtering further comprises the application of a rules engine that compares said user profile to a set of predefined criteria;

modifying an answer if it is inconsistent with at least one of:

said user profile; and
said affinity group;

storing said user profile of said each user in a storage associated with said computer implemented survey engine;

wherein said affinity group comprises at least one of:

profession;
compensation;
compensation range;
experience;
experience range;
position; and
position range;

the steps repeated at least once more per user;

determining, with said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, when no additional questions are to be presented to said individual based upon said individual's response to said sequence of questions, ~~said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine determining when no additional questions should be presented to said individual~~;

capturing, with said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, profile attributes comprising targeted compensation variables with regard to said individual user's profile responsive to an individual's answers to said sequence of questions, ~~said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine capturing profile attributes comprising targeted compensation variables with regard to said individual user's profile~~;

generating a personalized compensation report, which includes job information, career information, compensation, and potential profile matches for a user responding to said tailored sequence of questions responsive of a request from said user to generate said report ~~such that a personalized compensation report, which includes job information, career information, compensation, and potential profile matches, is generated for a user responding to said tailored sequence of questions responsive of a request from said user to generate said report~~; and

creating, by the computer implemented survey engine, when applicable new affinity groups as additional users respond to respective tailored sequence of questions ~~such that new affinity groups are created by the computer implemented survey engine when applicable as additional users respond to respective tailored sequence of questions~~.

11.   (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for performing a compensation survey of a plurality of users with a sequence of questions that is automatically tailored per user to create a corresponding individualized compensation report, comprising the steps of:

creating, with a computer implemented survey engine, for each of said users a corresponding user profile containing a tailored sequence of questions and corresponding answers, said tailored sequence of questions directed towards determination of job information, career information, and potential profile matches responsive of a user profile and one or more affinity groups of said user;

creating, with said computer implemented survey engine, one or more affinity groups for said users responsive of said corresponding user profile, each of said one or more affinity groups having at least one user profile in an affinity group, said one or more affinity groups being created independent of the order in which said tailored sequence of questions is presented to a user;

associating, with said computer implemented survey engine, each user profile with at least one existing affinity group;

presenting to each user, with a collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, a sequence of questions from a source containing a plurality of different questions, said sequence of questions and order of each question in said sequence of questions being independently, asynchronously, and dynamically tailored for each and every user on an individual basis responsive to both an answer received from each individual user to a question previously presented to said individual user and a particular affinity group or combination of affinity groups with which a profile of said individual user is associated; and

receiving answers from each user;

filtering said user profile, with a collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, wherein said filtering further comprises the application of a rules engine that compares said user profile to a set of predefined criteria;

modifying an answer if it is inconsistent with at least one of:

said user profile; and

said affinity group;

storing said user profile of said each user in a storage associated with said computer implemented survey engine;

wherein said affinity group comprises at least one of:

profession;

compensation;

compensation range;

experience;

experience range;

position; and

position range;

the steps repeated at least once more per user;

determining, with said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, when no additional questions are to be presented to said individual based upon said individual's response to said sequence of questions, said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine determining when no additional questions should be presented to said individual;

capturing, with said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, profile attributes comprising targeted compensation variables with regard to said individual user's profile responsive to an individual's answers to said sequence of questions, said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine capturing profile attributes comprising targeted compensation variables with regard to said individual user's profile;

generating a personalized compensation report, which includes job information, career information, compensation, and potential profile matches for a user responding to said tailored sequence of questions responsive of a request from said user to

generate said report ~~such that a personalized compensation report, which includes job information, career information, compensation, and potential profile matches, is generated for a user responding to said tailored sequence of questions responsive of a request from said user to generate said report~~; and

creating, by the computer implemented survey engine, when applicable new affinity groups as additional users respond to respective tailored sequence of questions ~~such that new affinity groups are created by the computer implemented survey engine when applicable as additional users respond to respective tailored sequence of questions~~.

92. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for surveying a plurality of users with a sequence of questions that is automatically tailored per user to create a corresponding individualized compensation report, comprising the steps of:

presenting to each user, with a collaborative filtering engine of a computer implemented survey engine, a tailored sequence of questions that is independently, asynchronous, and dynamically tailored for each and every user of the plurality of users on an individual basis from a source containing a plurality of different questions, each user's answer to each of said sequence of questions being stored in a corresponding user profile, said tailored sequence of questions directed towards determination of job information, career information, and potential profile matches responsive of a user profile and one or more affinity groups of said user;

determining periodically, with said computer implemented survey engine, an affinity of each of said corresponding user profile to compensation within one or more affinity groups, wherein each affinity group comprises a plurality of user profiles and wherein a user profile corresponds to at least one affinity group, said one or more affinity groups being created independent of the order in which said tailored sequence of questions is presented to a user;

receiving answers from each user;

filtering said user profile, with a collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, wherein said filtering further comprises the application of a rules engine that compares said user profile to a set of predefined criteria;

modifying an answer if it is inconsistent with at least one of:

said user profile; and

said affinity group;

wherein determining an appropriate next question for said sequence of questions to be presented to said user on an individual basis, said appropriate next question, and a specific order in which said sequence of said questions are presented to each said user, being determined on an individual, user-by-user basis based on at least a particular affinity group or combination of affinity groups to which said user profile is associated and an answer to a previously presented question; ~~and~~

storing said user profile of said each user in a storage associated with said computer implemented survey engine;

wherein said affinity group comprises at least one of:

profession;

compensation;

compensation range;

experience;

experience range;

position; and

position range;

the steps repeated at least once more per user;

determining, with said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, when no additional questions are to be presented to said individual based upon said individual's response to said sequence of questions~~, said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine determining when no additional questions should be presented to said individual~~;

capturing, with said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, profile attributes comprising targeted compensation variables with regard to said individual user's profile responsive to an individual's answers to said sequence of questions, ~~said collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine capturing profile attributes comprising targeted compensation variables with regard to said individual user's profile~~;

generating a personalized compensation report, which includes job information, career information, compensation, and potential profile matches for a user responding to said tailored sequence of questions responsive of a request from said user to generate said report ~~such that a personalized compensation report, which includes job information, career information, compensation, and potential profile matches, is generated for a user responding to said tailored sequence of questions responsive of a request from said user to generate said report~~; and

creating, by the computer implemented survey engine, when applicable new affinity groups as additional users respond to respective tailored sequence of questions ~~such that new affinity groups are created by the computer implemented survey engine when applicable as additional users respond to respective tailored sequence of questions~~.

ALLOWANCE

The following is an Allowance in response to Applicant's Amendment filed January 15, 2009 and an interview held with Mr. Michael Glenn on March 6, 2009.

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-15, 18-30, 48-49, 51, 57, 58, 60, 62, 92-93 and 96-98 are currently pending and allowed below.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The present invention is directed to a computer implemented method for creating a personalized/individualized compensation report for a user based on the user's answers to a sequence/set of tailored questions.

The closest prior art Cullen, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/020443 and Rosenthal et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0133502, and/or Williams et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,618,734 fail to teach or suggest either singularly or in combination a computer implemented method for creating individualized compensation reports comprising:

creating for each user a user profile containing a tailored sequence of questions and corresponding answers directed towards determination of job information, career information, and potential profile matches responsive of a user profile and one or more affinity groups of said user, by the computer implemented survey engine;

creating one or more affinity groups for said users responsive of said corresponding user profile, each of said one or more affinity groups having at least one user profile in an affinity group, said one or more affinity groups being created independent of the order in which said tailored sequence of questions is presented to a user, by the computer implemented survey engine;

presenting to each user, with a collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, a sequence of questions from a source containing a plurality of different questions, the sequence of questions and order of each question in the sequence of questions being independently, asynchronously, and dynamically tailored for each and every user on an individual basis responsive to both an answer received from each individual user to a question previously presented to said individual user and a particular affinity group or combination of affinity groups with which a profile of said individual user is associated;

receiving answers from each user;

filtering the user profile, with a collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, wherein said filtering further comprises the application of a rules engine that compares said user profile to a set of predefined criteria;

modifying an answer if it is inconsistent with at least one of: said user profile; and said affinity group;

wherein the affinity group comprises at least one of: profession; compensation; compensation range; experience; experience range; position; and position range;

determining, with the collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, when no additional questions are to be presented to said individual based upon the individual's response to said sequence of questions;

capturing, with the collaborative filtering engine of said computer implemented survey engine, profile attributes comprising targeted compensation variables with regard to said individual user's profile responsive to an individual's answers to said sequence of questions;

generating a personalized compensation report, which includes job information, career information, compensation, and potential profile matches for a user responding to said tailored sequence of questions responsive of a request from said user to generate said report; and

creating, by the computer implemented survey engine, when applicable new affinity groups as additional users respond to respective tailored sequence of questions

as recited in independent Claims 1, 30 and 92.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SCOTT L. JARRETT whose telephone number is (571)272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bradley Bayat can be reached on (571) 272-6704. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Scott L Jarrett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3624